

### **WEST VIRGINIA TO GET \$11.3 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE**

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, West Virginia will receive \$11.3 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For West Virginia's largest school districts, that means:

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOL DI	\$997,075
RALEIGH COUNTY SCHOOL DI	548,366
CABELL COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	486,587
MCDOWELL COUNTY SCHOOL D	456,629
WOOD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTR	443,383
MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	430,500
HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL D	422,945
LOGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	398,023
FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL DI	372,932
MINGO COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	352,686
WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	317,322
BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOL D	314,314
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	306,807
MONONGALIA SCHOOL DISTRI	295,182
WYOMING COUNTY SCHOOL DI	271,358
LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DI	233,264
NICHOLAS COUNTY SCHOOL D	219,622
PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	215,216
OHIO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTR	206,432
BOONE COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	205,200

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.